(b) selecting an adherent monolayer of the transfected cells on a second surface and in a second serum-free growth medium that permits attachment and proliferation, wherein the second serum-free growth medium comprises EGF or PDGF, and therefrom producing a conditionally-immortalized human mesencephalon cells in which the growth-promoting protein is regulated by an external factor, such that suppression of the growth promoting protein results in differentiation of the cell into neurons.

Please add the following new claims:

25. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the differentiating agent is forskolin, GDNF and CTNF.

26. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the differentiating agent is forskolin, GDNF, CTNF, IGF-1 and BDNF.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 23 and 24 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-15 and 23-26 will be pending in this application. New claims 25 and 26 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Support in the specification for claim 1 is found in the specification at page 16, lines 14-18 and 24-25. Support for claims 25 and 26 is found at page 17, lines 10-12 and 20-21.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Hoshimaru, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 93:1518-1523 (1996) and Prasad, *et al.*, *In Vitro Cell Dev.* 30A:596-603 (1994) in view of Boss, *et al.* U.S. Pat. No. 5,411,883 (1995) and Gallyas, *et al.*, *Neurochem. Res.* 22(5):569-575 (1997). The Examiner bases this conclusion on the belief that Hoshimaru teaches the immortalization of rat neuronal progenitor cells wherein the expression of the growth-promoting gene *v-myc* is conditionally driven by a tetracycline-controlled transactivator and a human CMV promoter, while Prasad, *et al.* discloses the isolation of an immortalized dopamine-producing nerve cell line derived from fetal rat mesencephalic tissue transfected with an oncogene. The Examiner further believes that Boss, *et al.* teaches the isolation and monolayer culture of human mesencephalon neural progenitor cells, while Gallyas, *et al.* discloses the characterization of mouse immortalized neuronal cell lines by measuring the concentration of various neurotransmitters. The Examiner